

# Pastoral REFLECTIONS

March 3, 2024

## Overflow

On a farm, there was a pond and a little brook. It was in the rainy season, and both were full to the brim with clean, pure water. It is in the dry season, and the difference in their natures shows up. The stream, constantly flowing to water the banks all along its course, still keeps pure and sparkling; it continues to draw from the underground springs at its source and to give freely as it goes along. The pond, neither receiving nor giving, hoards its precious moisture only to have its waters become foul and stagnant. It is the same lesson our Lord was trying to teach His disciples: We gain by giving and lose by keeping. (Illustrations of Bible Truths Copyright © 1995, 1998 by AMG International, Inc.)

“Honor the Lord from your wealth and from the first of all your produce; so your barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:9-10).

Many years ago, a lad, 16 years old, was obliged to leave home because his father was too poor to support him. So, he trudged away with all worldly possessions in a bundle dangling from his hand, resolving as he journeyed to set up a business as a soap maker in New York. When the country boy arrived in the big city, he found it hard to get work. Remembering his mother's last words and the godly advice given him by the captain of a canal boat, the youth dedicated his life to God, determined to return to his Maker an honest tithe of every dollar he earned. So, when his first dollar came in, the young man sacredly dedicated ten cents to the Lord. This he continued to do. And the dollars rolled in! Soon, this young man became a partner in a soap business, and when his partner died a few years later, he became the sole owner of the concern. The prosperous businessman now instructed his bookkeeper to open an account with the Lord and credit it one-tenth of all his income. The business grew miraculously. The honest proprietor now dedicated two-tenths of his earnings, and then three-tenths, four-tenths, and finally, five-tenths. His sales increased proportionately to his generosity, so soon, his soap brand became a household word worldwide. The late William Colgate was this man whom God so singly prospered in return for his faithfulness to his Maker. (from A Treasury of Bible Illustrations Copyright © 1995, 1998 by AMG International, Inc.)

“There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, and there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want. The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered.” (Proverbs 11:24-25)



## UPCOMING Events

**MEN'S PURITY DISCUSSIONS**  
Living Word Men, join us for our 2024 Purity Discussions. You don't want to miss this opportunity to engage in thought-provoking conversations and walk through *Every Man's Battle* by Stephen Arterburn and Fred Stoeker. Register at <https://bit.ly/MensPurity> or, for more information contact Jeffrey Allen at [Jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org](mailto:Jeffrey.allen@lwfellowshipchurch.org).

**Bible Study**  
Join us for Revelation Bible Studies every Tuesday at 12 p.m. & 7 p.m. Review your Revelation Bible Study notes at <https://bit.ly/LWFCBibleStudyNotes>  
See you there to continue our deep dive into the book of Revelation. For more information call the church at (281) 260-7402.

**FRIDAY MARCH 8TH PAINT & PRAISE**  
Young Adults, Come join us this Friday, March 8th at 6:30 PM for our first event of the year. We will have music, food, fun, and fellowship as we spend time with one another. Please register online for this event. For more information, contact Keron Brown. We hope to see you all there!

**VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE—VOTE**  
ELECTION DAY IS TUESDAY, 3/5/24 7 AM - 7 PM  
Living Word Family don't forget to vote on Election Day, Tuesday March 5, 2024. Polls are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Early Vote Centers will be open from Tuesday, February 20th - Friday, March 1st Mon. - Sat. (7 a.m. - 7 p.m.) & Sun. 12 noon - 7 p.m. We congratulate and support our very own **Michelle Bonton** on her run for Senate. To find your voting location or for more information visit [www.harrisvotes.com](http://www.harrisvotes.com)

**JOIN OUR FELLOWSHIP EVENTS TEAM**  
Join our Fellowship Events Team. We have several events coming up throughout the year and we need your help! No experience necessary, but you will learn how to pull off a dynamic event with a team. Register on the events page of our website and for more information contact Michelle Lewis.



## ORDER OF WORSHIP

Announcements

Communion

Worship In Giving

Offering boxes are located at all perimeters under crosses

Special Music

“Invest”  
Luke 6:38

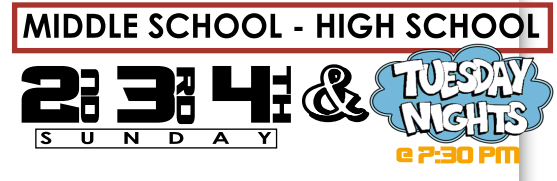
Click “Sermon Notes” on the Website

Call to Discipleship  
Please remain seated at this time

Visitor's Welcome

Benediction

Children are now required to check-in upon arrival. Please report to the registration desk located in the children's wing.  
**Infants—6th grade**





Invest  
Luke 6:38

A. Guaranteed Returns (v. 38a):

- 1. Christ commands us to decisively (as He gives to us; 1 Corinthians 16:1-2) make it a habit to repeatedly put in place what He has commanded us to do with a cheerful heart (2 Corinthians 9:6-15).
- 2. Giving is viewed as the ‘harvest of righteousness’ (fruit of the Spirit; 2 Corinthians 9:10) because our commitment to obey God’s Word repeatedly, demonstrates acts of faith showing that we trust Him to fulfill His Word.
- 3. Even though God demonstrates many acts of love towards us every day; when we choose to give He permanently provides back to us what we have given Him. In other words we add a level of security to what we had in the first place as He gives it back to us.

B. High Percentage Yield (v. 38b)

- 1. The Lord’s promise is with no mind to be exact with us because of our obedience to Him. It is His grace to us. Grace is spontaneous, generous, and free-hearted with no expectation of return to the giver.
- 2. What God permanently put back in place is something we now possess. It is designated as belonging to us and no one else. Bosom or lap means a person’s personal space.
- 3. Good measure is the execution of God’s gift, based on the will of God, precisely as it should be implemented so it is done with fairness and without error. God is good (James 1:17), so there is no way He can rob anyone. We are the ones that rob Him (Malachi 3:8).
- 4. The Lord would do whatever it takes to provide for us beyond our measure. God may allow some pressure to come upon our lives to finish school; and excel at our jobs so that He can find ways to bless us beyond our expectations; for example, “Poor is he who works with a negligent hand, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.” (Proverbs 10:4)
- 5. To people who are farmers shaking out barley, Christ uses what they are accustomed to doing as they seek to get all they can from their harvest. Christ will ensure that what He provides back to us is missing absolutely nothing when it is returned to our permanent possession.
- 6. God’s return is not just completely everything we gave to Him; it, is continuously delivered beyond the measure we gave. Just as we make it a habit to repeatedly give to God, God repeatedly makes it a habit to be excessive in His response to us.
- 7. Running over-emphasizes God’s generosity. He does not mind if our “barns will be filled with plenty and your vats will overflow with new wine.” (Proverbs 3:10).

B. The Returns Depends on What is Invested (v. 38c):

- 1. All of what the Lord is going to do is continuously determined by how we give. God is waiting on us, while many people are waiting on God.
- 2. The Lord who cannot lie (Hebrews 6:18) promises to repay us; in the manner described in this passage, precisely as He said He will. This is His promise to us.
- 3. If a pastor or church were to do wrong to anyone, it would not stop what God promises and says He will do to those who abuse His sheep (Ezekiel 34:7-10).



VOTE

ELECTION DAY  
TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 2024 7 AM - 7 PM

Early Vote Centers will be open from  
Tuesday, February 20th - Friday, March 1st  
Mon. - Sat. (7 a.m. – 7 p.m.) & Sun. 12 noon – 7 p.m.

We Congratulate and Support our  
very own Michelle Bonton  
on her run for Senate!

Find Your Voting Center at:  
<https://www.harrisvotes.com>



Leadership Training

SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024 AT 8:30 AM

EMPOWER LEAD CHANGE INSPIRE

SHARE VISION

breakfast will be served

REGISTER AT  
<https://bit.ly/42LqsCm>







PRAYER REQUESTS

**Grieving:** Mignette Dorsey & family, the family of Dorothy Price, Jenny Dangerfield & family, Athena Hall & family, Janie Buchanan & family, and Kathleen Franklin & family.

**Health and Healing:** Lurlean Lane, Florence Wiggins, Retha Amos, Margaret Baptiste, Cici Sharpe, Eunice Johnson, Jeffrey McQueen, Eric White, Pat Crawford, Birdie Williams, Tanisha Collins, Jon Heard, Rutha Patrick, Kevin Carey, Sherri Love, Elizabeth Clarke, Clara Williams, Kathryn Ford-Cheatham, Anthony Thomas, Beverly Austin, Joshua Williams, Ruby Hunter, Elizabeth Bean, Patsy Gatterson, Joyce Newsome, Arleatha Housley, and Patrina Johnson.

INVEST

LUKE 6:38



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